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Bill Slocum EVERYWHERE

Ah, Those Military Minds!

When one considers the military mind, one wonders how we ever won a war. The only explanation possible is that *our* military minds were fighting *their* military minds and a military mind is a universal nothing.

As the latest example of said mind allegedly functioning, I give you the Air Force's new order banning the gift of cigarets to its personnel in hospitals.

We can assume this order covers enlisted personnel, only. Such orders usually do.

THE AIR FORCE, in explaining the order, points to ever-increasing evidence that there is a link between cancer and cigaret smoking. Inasmuch as this evidence was not compiled by the Air Force, one is inclined to think it may well be the truth.

But, if there is ever a time when a cigaret comes in handy it is when a man is fighting the tenseness, the uncertainty and the pain that are always so much a part of any hospitalization. Particularly, I would think, of military hospitalization.

Bill Slocum

Naturally, some poor bloke with an illness that would be complicated by smoking should not be permitted cigarets. I rather imagine that rule has been in effect in military hospitals for many years now.

Apparently men with broken legs and busted appendixes are permitted to smoke if they can buy their own coffin nails. It's the gifts the Air Force objects to.

IF THE AIR FORCE is going to start taking a dim view of gifts, there is a lot of Congressional testimony around that suggests it might start getting tough with its own hierarchy before making things even a little bit tougher for the poor guy who wound up in a hospital and wants a smoke.

The Navy has a peculiar rule, too. Nobody is permitted a drink aboard a United States Navy ship. This law still stands in the books because the wife of a Secretary of Navy was a prohibitionist and when the prohibition law was repealed Mrs. Secretary refused to accept the people's verdict for her husband's Navy.

The idea of giving a sailor a few drinks to relieve the fantastic boredom of weeks on end at sea might seem dangerous at first. But the idea isn't to run a saloon in mid-Pacific. Just a drink or two at specified times. Issued from Navy stores under strict supervision.

THEY'VE BEEN doing just that in the British Navy since time immemorial. And the British have always put a great Navy on the oceans of the world. Quite sober, too.

"I-TOLD-YOU-SO" items in

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CIGARETTES

WASHINGTON (AP)-THE NAVY INDICATED TODAY IT MAY FOLLOW THE AIR FORCE'S LEAD IN REFUSING TO ALLOW CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS TO PRESENT GIFT CIGARETTS TO MEN IN ITS HOSPITALS.

THE AIR FORCE SAID LAST SATURDAY THAT ITS SURGEON GENERAL HAS DECLINED OFFERS FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES IN AIR FORCE HOSPITALS "BECAUSE OF THE RECENT EVIDENCE WHICH SUGGESTS FURTHER RELATION BETWEEN CIGARETTE SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER. OTHER PULMONARY DISEASES AND WITH CERTAIN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES." CIGARETTE FIRMS CONTEND THAT SUCH RESEARCH TO DATE IS INCONCLUSIVE.

THE NAVY SAID IT HAS NOT DISCONTINUED DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT TOBACCO AT NAVAL HOSPITALS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

HOWEVER, THE NAVY SAID "ACTION MAY BE TAKEN LATER BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF A SPECIAL FACT FINDING COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE ARMY SAID IT HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION LIKE THAT OF THE AIR FORCE, "NOR IS ANY SUCH ACTION CONTEMPLATED."

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WASHINGTON--ADD CIGARETTES (161)

MEANWHILE, EDWARD F. RAGLAND, A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE INC., SAID MUCH RESEARCH "FAILS TO SUPPORT THE THEORY THAT SMOKING PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN LUNG CANCER CAUSATION."

IN A SPEECH PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TOBACCO TAX ASSOCIATION RAGLAND SAID, "PEOPLE WHO PRESENT THE THEORY AGAINST SMOKING FREQUENTLY OVERLOOK THE EVIDENCE THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT THEM.....

"IT IS APPARENT THAT SMOKING IS BEING INVESTIGATED ALONG WITH MANY OTHER FACTORS, AS SCIENTISTS SEEK TO LEARN THE CAUSES OF LUNG CANCER," HE SAID. "THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY APPROVES OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS AND IS SUPPORTING MANY OF THEM ITSELF, THROUGH THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE."

ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT A SCIENTIST, RAGLAND SAID, "SCIENTISTS INFORM ME THAT MEDICAL SCIENCE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, SMOKING OR ANY OTHER FACTOR PLAYS IN LUNG CANCER."

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zpnk0000